Message Text

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: OECD, ELTN

SUBJECT: OECD ROAD RESEARCH PROGRAM

- 1. AT SIXTEENTH SESSION OF STEERING COMMITTEE OF OECD ROAD RESEARCH COOPFRATION PROGRAM HELD IN DENMARK, MAY 19-21, 1976, COMMITTEE MEMBERS WERE ADVISED BY SECRETARIAT (TURGEL) THAT OECD CONSIDERING A GENERAL POLICY OF HAVIN; ALL FUTURE STEERING COMMITTEE MEETINGS IN PARIS.
- 2. WHILE WE FULLY SUPPORT DESIRABILITY OF MINIMIZING OECD TRAVEL AND ADMINISTRATIVE EXPENSES AND RECOGNIZE THERE MAY BE SOME MONETARY SAVINGS REALIZED FOR ROAD RESEARCH STAFF BY RESTRICTING FUTURE STEERING COMMITTEE MEETINGS TO PARIS, WE BELIEVE THAT POSSIBLE SAVINGS ARE MORE THAN OFFSET BY PROBLEMS ASSOCIATED WITH NOT BEING ABLE TO HOLD AN ANNUAL LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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ROAD RESEARCH SYMPOSIUM CONCURRENTLY WITH ONE OF TWO

STEERING COMMITTEE SESSIONS HELD EACH YEAR. UNDER PRESENT ARRANGEMENT MEMBERS OF ROAD RESEARCH STEERING COMMITTEE ARE ABLE TO ACTIVELY PARTICIPATE IN SYMPOSIA AT NO ADDITIONAL INCREASE IN TRAVEL COSTS. AN OPPORTUNITY IS ALSO PROVIDED FOR OBTAINING FIRSTHAND KNOWLEDGE ABOUT APPLICATIONS OF NEW HIGHWAY TECHNOLOGY IN VARIOUS MEMBER COUNTRIES AND FOR VISITING ROAD RESEARCH LABORATORY FACILITITES WORLDWIDE.

- 3. IF ALL STEERING COMMITTEE MEETINGS IN FUTURE HELD IN PARIS, EITHER WE MUST SCHEDULE ALL FUTURE SYMPOSIA IN PARIS CONCURRENTLY WITH ONE OF STEERING COMMITTEE MEETINGS, OR SYMPOSIA MUST BE SEPARATELY SCHEDULED, OR SYMPOSIA MAY BE SCHEUDLED CONCURRENTLY BUT IN A DIFFERENT LOCATION THUS NECESSITATING TRAVEL FROM PARIS AFTER STEER-ING COMMITTEE MEETING. WE SEE NONE OF THESE THREE ALTER-NATIVES AS DESIRABLE. BECAUSE OF TRAVEL COSTS ASSOCIATED TRIP TO EUROPE FROM UNITED STATES, CANADA, AND JAPAN TO ATTEND A SEPARATE SYMPOSIUM, ATTENDANCE WOULD PROBABLY BE REDUCED BELOW PRESENT MINIMAL LEVEL. WITH AN ADDITIONAL DAY FOR TRAVEL, IT WOULD NOT BE FEASIBLE TO ATTEND STEERING COMMITTEE MEETINGS IN PARIS AND SYMPOSIA IN ANOTHER WESTERN EUROPE COUNTRY IN SAME WEEK, WHICH WOULD ALSO HAVE AN IMPACT ON ATTENDANCE. (NEITHER WOULD IT BE ACCEPTABLE TO MEMBER COUNTRIES TO HOLD ALL FUTURE SYMPOSIA IN PARIS.)
- 4. REQUEST MISSION INFORM SECRETARIAT OF FOREGOING USG VIEWS RE PROPOSAL HOLD FUTURE STEERING COMMITTEE MEETINGS IN PARIS AND SEEK AGREEMENT TO CONTINUATION OF PRESENT PRACTICE OF HOLDING STEERING COMMITTEE MEETINGS IN PARIS EXCEPT WHEN SCHEDULED IN CONJUNCTION WITH SYMPOSIUM.
- 5. INFO ADDRESSEES: PASS US VIEWS TO APPROPRIATE HOST OFFICIALS. ROBINSON

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